



# SCHOOL FARMS



- Learning outside the classroom
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Responsibility
- Enrichment

- Sustainability
- Local and global community
- Awe and wonder
- Relevant and applied learning

## About the School Farms Network

The Network is the only place to link everyone involved in school farming and provides - where resources are available - the following:

- A mutual support network of like-minded people
- Electronic newsletters
- A **Facebook** Group
- **Get Your Hands Dirty** resource pack
- **Website**/telephone/letter/email support
- Advice and information and links to relevant resources and guidance
- Wherever possible an experienced teacher acts as a mentor to a school looking to start or expand their horticultural and farming activities
- A bi-annual conference and Awards (for both students and teachers)
- Advocacy and promotion.

The School Farms Network is there to help any teacher, teaching assistant or other support staff, or parent wishing to develop their knowledge and skills, whether running an established school farm or considering starting a new one. Teachers and pupils should all Get Their Hands Dirty!

## School Farms Conference 2021

The next School Farms Conference is to be held at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester 2nd – 3rd July 2021 – save the date and check the website for details and how to book [www.schoolfarms.org.uk](http://www.schoolfarms.org.uk)



# A snapshot of school farms autumn 2019

- All school farms provide opportunities for all pupils to gain experience of farm livestock, with varying proportions of the student population actively engaged in practical tasks
- Type of schools with farms: approximately 2% Preparatory, 27% primary/junior, 48% secondary, 7% both primary and secondary, and 15% are 'special needs'
- Some school farms are very old (1864) but new ones are being created each year, the majority being within primary schools: 5 in 2016, 6 in 2017, 5 in 2018 and 4 in 2019. Of these 11 are primary schools, 3 both primary & secondary, 4 secondary and 2 special needs
- The number of students from other educational settings using the school farm varies from pre-school visits, through practical sessions for other schools' courses, work experience, to childhood and education (and also veterinary) degree students
- The range of qualifications offered using the school farm is most commonly (2019-20) BTEC Levels 1 & 2 in Animal Care City & Guilds Land-based Studies GCSE, but other BTEC, ASDAN and AQA courses are also delivered
- The average size of a school farm is approximately 5.3 hectares, but with a median size of 1.81 hectares, and mode (most common) is 1.0 hectare.

## About Social Farms & Gardens

**Social Farms & Gardens** supports the School Farms Network (SFN) and is a UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together.

Find out more on the [Social Farms & Gardens website](#).

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